

Papuan Malay

Papuan Malay or **Irian Malay** is a Malay-based creole language spoken in the Indonesian part of New Guinea. It emerged as a contact language among tribes in Indonesian New Guinea (now Papua and West Papua provinces) for trading and daily communication. Nowadays, it has a growing number of native speakers. More recently, the vernacular of Indonesian Papuans has been influenced by Standard Indonesian, the national standard dialect.

According to Robert B. Allen and Rika Hayami-Allen, Papuan Malay has its roots in North Moluccan Malay, evidenced by the number of Ternate loanwords in its lexicon.^[3] Others have proposed that it is derived from Ambonese Malay.^[4]

Four dialects of Papuan Malay can be identified.^[4] A variety of Papuan Malay is spoken in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea near the Indonesian border.

Examples:

- Ini tanah pemerintah punya, bukan ko punya!* = It's governmental land, not yours!
- Tong tra pernah bohong* = We never lie.

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Morpho-syntax

Possession

Possession is encoded by the general structure POSSESSOR-*punya*-POSSESSUM, where the 'possessum' is the 'thing' being possessed by the possessor - the unit preceding *punya*). A typical example is shown below;^[5]

(1)	nanti	Hendro	punya	ade	prempuang	kawn...
	eventually,	Hendro	POSS	ySb	woman	marry.inofficially
	'eventually, Hendro's younger sister would marry ...'					

Papuan Malay	
Irian Malay	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	West Papua
Native speakers	unknown; 500,000 combined L1 and L2 speakers (2007) ^[1]
Language family	Malay Creole <ul style="list-style-type: none">East Indonesian Malay<ul style="list-style-type: none">Papuan Malay
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	pmy
Glottolog	papu1250 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/papu1250) ^[2]

In the canonical form, similar to (1), a lexical noun, personal pronoun or demonstrative pronoun form the POSSESSOR and POSSESSUM noun phrases.

A further example is presented below;

(2)	Fitri	pu	ini
	Fitri	POSS	D.PROX
	Fitri's (belongings, right there)*		

*words in brackets indicate the understood referent of a personal pronoun or demonstrative, established from the context of the utterance

As shown in (2), the long *punya* possessive marker can also be reduced to the short *pu*, an alteration which appears to be independent of the syntactic or semantic properties of the possessor and possessum.

A further reduction to *=p* is possible, but only if the possessor noun phrase ends in a vowel, shown below;

(3)	sa	bilang,	i,	sa=p	kaka			ko=p	kaka
	1SG	say	ugh!	1SG=POSS	oSb	3SG	say	2SG=POSS	oSb
	'I said 'ugh!, (that's) my older sister ', she said, ' your older sister? '								

This is most common when the possessor is a singular personal pronoun (two instances of which are found in (3)), and provides an explanation for why '*Hendro punya ...*'

is observed in (1), rather than the reduced theoretical possibility of '*Hendro=p*'.

A final canonical possibility is the total omission of the possessive marker (indicated with a \emptyset symbol), but this is generally restricted to inalienable possession of body parts and

kinship relations, the former seen in (4) below;

(4)	adu,	bapa	\emptyset	mulut	jahat	skali
	oh.no!	father		mouth	be.bad	very
	'oh no, father's language is very bad' (Lit. ' father's mouth)					

Other, less typical/more complex 'non-canonical' combinations are also possible, where the possessor and/or possessum can consist of verbs, quantifiers and prepositional phrases.

Such constructions can denote *locational* (5), *beneficiary* (6), *quantity-intensifying* (7), *verb-intensifying* (8) and *emphatic* (9) possessive relations.

(5)	Jayapura	pu	dua	blas	orang	yang	lulus	ka
	Jayapura	POSS	two	tens	person	REL	pass(a.test)	or
	'aren't there twelve people from Jayapura who graduated?' (Lit. ' Jayapura's twelve people)							

In Papuan Malay, it can be seen from (5) that being in or at a location is expressed as being 'of' (in a possessive sense) the location itself (the syntactic possessor).

The possessive marker can also direct attention to an action or object's beneficiary, where the benefiting party occupies the possessor position;

(6)	dong	su	bli	de	punya	alat~alat	ini
	3PL	already	buy	3SG	POSS	RDP~equipment	D.PROX
	'they already bought these utensils for him ' (Lit. 'his utensils')						

In this instance, the possessive marker is an approximate substitute for the English equivalent marker 'for ____'. This demonstrates that the construction doesn't have to describe a realised possession; the mere fact that the possessor is the intended beneficiary of *something* (the possessum) is sufficient in marking that *something* as possessed by the possessor, regardless of whether the possessum has actually been received, experienced or even seen by the possessor.

Where the possessum slot is filled by a quantifier, the possessive construction elicits an intensified or exaggerated reading;

(7)	tete	de	minum	air	pu	sedikit
	grandfather	3SG	drink	water	POSS	few
	'grandfather drinks very little water ' (Lit. 'few of')					

However, this is restricted to *few* and *many* quantifiers, and numerals in the same possessum slot yield an ungrammatical result. As such, substituting *sedikit* with *dua* (two) in (7) would not be expected to be present in language data.

Intensification using *punya* or *pu* is also applicable to verbs;

(8)	adu,	dong	dua	pu	mendrita
	oh.no!	3PL	two	POSS	mendrita
	'oh no, the two of them were suffering so much ' (Lit. 'the suffering of')				

Here, the verbal sense of the possessum is owned by the possessor. i.e., the *two of them* in (8) are the syntactic 'owners' of the *suffering*, which *semantically* intensifies or exaggerates the quality of the verb *suffering*, hence translated as *so much* for its English representation.

Along similar lines to (8), a verbal possessum can also be taken by a *verbal possessor*, expressing an emphatic reading;

(9)	mama	de	masak	punya	enak
	mother	3SG	cook	POSS	be.pleasant
	'mother really cooks very tastily ' (Lit. 'the being tasty of the cooking')				

As indicated by the insertion of adverbials in the English translation otherwise syntactically absent in Papuan Malay (9), the verbal-possessor-*punya*-verbal-possessum construction elicits emphatic meaning and tone. The difference to (8) being that in (9), the verbal quality of the possessum constituent is being superimposed upon another verb element, rather than to a pronominal possessor, to encode emphasis or assertion.

A final possibility in Papuan Malay possessive constructions is elision of the possessum, in situations where it can be easily established from context;

(10)	itu	de	punya	ø
	D.DIST	3SG	POSS	
	'those are his (banana plants)'			

Unlike the general freedom of possessive marker form for both canonical and non-canonical constructions (1-9), the long *punya* form is almost exclusively used when a possessum is omitted, possibly as a means of more markedly sign-posting the possessum's elision.

See also

- Ambonese Malay
- North Moluccan Malay
- Serui Malay

References

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